



# Staff Report

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**Agenda Item:**            **Authorization for the Submission of a Grant Application to the Walton Family Foundation Relating to the Clarkdale Sustainability Park** – Approval for the CSP Work Group to submit a grant application to the Walton Family Foundation for the Clarkdale Sustainability Park.

**Submitted By:**            Town Manager Gayle Mabery

**Meeting Date:**            April 13, 2010

**Background:**            During the Council's February 26, 2010 Strategic Planning Session, the Council identified the solicitation of funding for administrative support for the Clarkdale Sustainability Park project as the highest priority focus for that project. Since that time, the CSP Work Group has developed a grant application to be submitted to the Walton Family Foundation.

In July, 2009, the Walton Family Foundation developed a five year strategy for their Freshwater Initiative. The Freshwater Initiative is a component of the Foundation's Environment Program, which has a primary objective to achieve lasting conservation outcomes in ocean and river systems that benefit both people and wildlife by aligning economic and conservation interests. The Freshwater Initiative's primary objective is to ensure healthy and resilient communities of both wildlife and humans in targeted river systems. The Initiative accomplishes its goals through economic incentives and other conservation tools, including engaging in demonstration projects, pursuing policy reforms at the federal and state levels, supporting targeted scientific and economic analysis, and advancing communications strategies. The Initiative's geographic focus is on the Mississippi and Colorado River Basins.

The CSP Work Group believes that the goals of the Walton Family Foundation's Freshwater Initiative fit perfectly with the goals of the CSP, and particularly with the primary focus of the first phase of the CSP. As established in our 2010 Strategic Planning session, the first phase of the CSP will address water sustainability and reduce dewatering of the adjacent Verde River by treating municipal effluent to drinking water standards. This water will then initially be used as "non-potable reuse" water for irrigation, aquifer recharge and such non-potable uses as secondary water in commercial buildings (toilet flushing, etc.). Producing the energy required for this process on-site from a renewable source will be included in the first phase as well.

Although we hope to eventually apply for 3 years of gradually reducing funding from the Foundation, our primary focus for our initial application is for 1 year. The application will seek funding in the amount of \$156,000 from the Foundation for the first year (\$135,000 for consultant expenses; and \$21,000 for direct expenses such as travel, postage, supplies, and equipment). The application demonstrates a \$74,100 match towards those funds, 96% of which is in-kind contributions of staff salary/benefits and general overhead. We have included 4% of the match as cash (\$3,000) for travel, printing/publications and miscellaneous supplies which will come from our existing travel/education budgets and office supply budgets.

If approved for funding, we will solicit applications from a private contractor/consultant to serve as Project Manager for the CSP under the direction of the Town Manager for the next year.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Council approve the CSP Work Group to submit a grant application to the Walton Family Foundation for the Clarkdale Sustainability Park.